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Results Report 2007



USAID/Ecuador Results Report 2007

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In fiscal year (FY) 2007, USAID's program expanded cultivation of alternative crops by more than 6,597 hectares and generated 5,676 new full-time equivalent jobs. Nearly the entire production of cacao, coffee, and broccoli is exported to Colombia, the U.S., Europe, and Japan. Additionally, 14 bridges, 20 water systems, and 9 sewerage systems financed by USAID benefited 11,683 families.

USAID financed the training and deployment of 7,516 election observers and also supported quick-counts. At the local level, USAID worked in nine municipalities to increase tax collections, improve transparency in the formulation of municipal budgets and oversight of municipal expenditures. USAID also supported 41 civil society organizations that monitor the administration of justice and promoted a pilot judicial reform program in Cuenca—the third largest city in Ecuador. To combat trafficking in persons, USAID has promoted alliances in three cities between more than 100 civil society organizations and the public sector.

To encourage economic growth, USAID supported the creation of a nationwide private sector council that promotes consensus on pro-market policies. This council created formal links between 186 private sector groups from nine provinces and commerce-related government offices. Now it is easier for both groups to work in sync to implement economic policies that benefit a broad segment of the population. Thanks in no small part to USAID programs, in 2007 the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) recognized Ecuador as having the third most advanced credit program in Latin America.

Alternative Development

In FY 2007, USAID trained 1,000 farmers on agricultural and post-harvest best practices and modern techniques. As a result, cacao yields increased from 3 to 18 100-pound bags per hectare. Coffee yields jumped from 2 to 12 100-pound bags per hectare.

Productivity increases and product quality improvements, plus efforts to link farmers to end-markets, have contributed to increasing family incomes. Participant farmers currently export nearly 100% of their cacao, coffee, and broccoli. Good quality cacao (fine 'arriba' beans) receives a premium price up to \$800 per metric ton. In FY 2007, USAID's work to promote the cultivation and processing of premium cacao has increased family annual



income from \$1,600 to \$1,900. Coffee farm family income increased from \$700 to \$1,200, and broccoli producers increased their income from \$800 to \$1,300.

In FY 2007, USAID organized 40 business-oriented farmer groups and assisted eight farm enterprises to improve their competitiveness and their ability to work in concert with their local governments to promote local business development. As a result of a partnership between the San Carlos cacao processing plant and the Municipality of Joya de los Sachas, the Municipality agreed to build an access road from the plant to the main road and to connect the plant to the electricity grid.

In FY 2007, USAID strengthened 23 municipal governments. In five of these cities, municipal

tax revenues increased 68% in just one year. Additionally, USAID financed the construction of 14 bridges, 20 water systems, and 9 sewerage systems benefiting over 70,000 people.

Together, USAID and the Government of Ecuador developed an award-winning public relations campaign, “Juntos” (“Together”), to disseminate good news from the Northern Border. In FY 2007, USAID leveraged an additional \$470,093 from the media for this campaign.

Democracy and Governance

Ecuador had three elections in FY 2007; Presidential and Congressional elections in November, 2006, a Referendum in April, 2007, and Constituent Assembly elections on September 30, 2007. USAID supported *Participacion Ciudadana*, a local non-governmental organization, to field 7,516 domestic election observers for these elections. USAID also partially financed *Participacion Ciudadana*’s quick count effort, a national public awareness campaign to promote informed voting, and campaign spending monitoring. Quick counts were within a $\pm 0.08\%$ margin of error when compared with official results in the November 2006 and September 2007 elections.

In the justice sector, as a result of USAID’s assistance, in 2007 Cuenca finalized and put into practice pre-trial oral hearings immediately following an arrest to determine if preventive detention is necessary. As a result of this effort, no one in Cuenca was imprisoned without being sentenced. This is in stark contrast to the 64% of prisoners nationwide who are imprisoned without being sentenced. In November 2007, the Supreme Court decided to adopt Cuenca’s successful pre-trial approach nationwide.

One impact of these successful judicial reforms in Cuenca is greater citizen confidence in the Rule of Law. In Cuenca the level of trust in administration of justice was 54% (2007), compared to 28% nationally (2006).

USAID also promoted public defense for the most vulnerable groups in Ecuador. In FY 2007, a total of 1,463 indigent persons, including poor women, received legal defense services and another 1,623 were provided legal counsel in eight cities. These legal aid centers had a case resolution rate of over 40%. In FY 2007, the government selected four of these USAID supported legal clinics to provide public defense services under a new initiative to provide legal services to prisoners.

USAID also supported 41 citizen oversight groups who assessed judicial performance in five cities. Based on the recommendations of these oversight committees, the city of Azogues adopted pre-trial hearings and a university in the city of Gualaceo agreed to offer public defense services.



In FY 2007 USAID also supported civil society groups who promoted transparency by monitoring application of the

Access to Public Information Law. USAID also helped the Ministry of Education train 190 high-school students from the city of Guayaquil on leadership skills and democratic values.

Combating Trafficking in Persons

With USAID support, in FY 2007, an alliance of 32 civil society organizations in Cuenca developed an Action Plan to combat sexual commercial exploitation of minors; strengthened assistance to trafficking victims; created a specialized police investigative unit for sex crimes; strengthened the Prosecutors Witness and Victims Unit; and improved witness protection.

A similar effort was undertaken in FY 2007 by 63 public sector and civil society organizations in the Amazon province of Napo, which also developed and adopted a Local Action Plan to combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors.

In Machala, in 2007, eleven workshops were held on trafficking in persons (TIP) to raise awareness, improve coordination, and establish local policies to fight TIP.

USAID also provided small grants to the Adolatrices Sisters to support their two TIP shelters in Guayaquil and Quito.

In addition to local level initiatives, USAID provided assistance to the Ministry of Government for the implementation of the National Plan to Combat TIP.

Economic Growth

In FY 2007, USAID supported the creation of the Ecuadorian Committee for Economic Territorial Development (CEDET). CEDET represents 186 private sector-civil society organizations in nine provinces. With association members running the gamut from artisans to large producers, CEDET has become a respected, representative, and nationwide voice for pro-business/pro-competitive reforms.

Since its creation, CEDET has participated in key policy discussions and events hosted by the government of Ecuador, including Presidential trips to promote trade and investment.



The USAID-supported Productive Network project identified 15 potential clusters such as leather goods, Panama Hats, dairy products,

cocoa, apparel, horticulture, and eco-tourism. Some of these clusters, like the one for dairy products, have already been inaugurated.

In FY 2007, USAID also supported analysis of new financial laws. USAID worked with private and public groups, hosting technical discussions, preparing position papers on the impact of proposed financial laws and helped the Superintendent of Banks draft financial transparency norms to increase public awareness of the true cost of financial services.

USAID also created ten rural tele-centers to meet the communication needs of businesses, schools, health centers, and households. These handicapped-accessible facilities offer internet, voice and video over internet, and basic office services.

Environment

In FY 2007, USAID partners demarcated an additional 552 km of indigenous boundaries, strengthened land tenure and concession rights of indigenous people, and physically protected natural resources in a total of 1,008,465 ha. The Awa Indigenous Federation, received title to 99,427 ha of their ancestral land. With USAID support, the central government issued legal title to 35,000 ha to indigenous Cofan groups. The program also partnered with private landowners to conserve a 65,000 ha corridor located between the natural reserves of Cayambe-Coca and Antisana and the Cotopaxi National Park.



USAID is supporting governmental efforts to control illegal migration to Galapagos by financing a computer system to manage

migration as well as support the government's 2020 initiative for Galapagos.

In FY 2007, USAID trained 510 people on migration regulations and Galapagos law. As a result of USAID assistance, 350 people with irregular status left Galapagos in 2007 and 2,000 people regularized their residence status. USAID also helped create a migration follow-up system that requires visitors to the Galapagos to register and purchase the in-transit-control card at Guayaquil and Quito airports. This provides authorities a precise picture of how many visitors enter and leave the islands.

Inclusive Development

During the 2007 elections, USAID supported the National Association for Persons with Disabilities, (FENEDIF) activity “They Have the Right to Vote.” The *taxi solidario* campaign in Quito, Cuenca, and Tulcan, provided free transportation to 320 persons with disabilities (PWD) on election day. In addition to the taxi drivers, 80 university students and, in an unusual twist, 120 former members of the gang, Latin Kings, volunteered.

Also in FY 2007 with USAID funding, 24,000 Braille ballots were printed and distributed to all polling sites, a first for Ecuador; 50,000 PWDs received voter information; 100,000 members of the Electoral Tribunal, military, and police were sensitized on the right of persons with disabilities to access polling stations and vote; and 36,000 polling stations were surveyed on PWD and poll accessibility.

Additionally, with USAID support, FENEDIF contacted 750 companies to sensitize their staff on the labor rights of persons with disabilities and to encourage hiring PWD. USAID also helped train 722 PWD in skills that are in demand by the private sector. As a result of this effort, 422 PWD found new permanent jobs by the end of FY 2007.

In December 2006, Microsoft gave FENEDIF a grant of \$105,935 to equip four “tele-centers” with appropriate IT technology for PWD, facilitating their access to information and technology.

USAID complemented the activities described above by awarding five small grants to organizations that work for and with PWD that were used to help establish micro-enterprises such as bakeries and cafeterias that are managed and staffed by PWD. These small grants benefited an estimated 150 direct and 1,300 indirect beneficiaries.

Finally, USAID co-financed with municipalities the construction of 50 handicap ramps in the

cities of Manta, Rocafuerte, and Joya de Los Sachas. In Manta, the USNS Comfort Seabees in August 2007 also constructed ramps at two schools, one hospital and one government building.

Regional Programs

Center of Excellence for Teacher Training (CETT)

In FY 2007, this program trained 1,870 teachers in Quito, Cayambe, Otavalo, and Cotopaxi to improve teaching methods that benefited nearly 58,000 children.

The Regional Trade Capacity Building Program

In FY 2007, the Regional Trade Capacity Building Program developed a strategy to streamline the Ministry of Labor (MOL) Inspections Office. The Ministry adopted this strategy, which now allows inspectors to exclusively focus on labor law compliance.

USAID trained MOL inspectors, developed databases and introduced Information Technology to expedite the inspection processes and make them more transparent.

In addition, USAID developed with the MOL a public awareness campaign on workers’ rights.

Initiative for the Conservation of the Andean Amazon

In 2007, the Amazon Basin Conservation Initiative started a Language Training Center to teach Spanish to Cofan women, and English to staff of the Cofan Foundation. USAID also identified private sector partners to work with indigenous producer groups to increase productivity. The program also strengthened communication and coordination between indigenous groups in Ecuador, Peru and Brazil. Now these groups can more easily define common development strategies.